Communities of Opportunity

Interim Governance Plan

About Communities of Opportunity

Communities of Opportunity (COO) is a new initiative with the ambitious goal of creating greater health, social, economic, and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper. It stems from a recognition that the region's overall high quality of life is masking profound differences by place and race – differences that, if left unchecked, will affect the well-being and prosperity of our entire region.

While working on these issues is not new, *how* it's being approached is what is transformative. COO seeks to develop solutions through collaborative partnerships which include those most affected. In its first six months, this new partnership has gained significant positive momentum—engaging community, refining its framework, and convening initial funding partners.

Initial design phase: March – October 2014

To launch COO, The Seattle Foundation and King County asked a group of community partners to join them in shaping the initial contours and investments of COO.   The Design Committee met six times over six months to design the initial two funding rounds of COO, and it developed the following overall goals and guiding principles for COO work.

Results Statement

Create greater health, social, economic and racial equity in King County so that all people thrive and prosper, regardless of race or place.
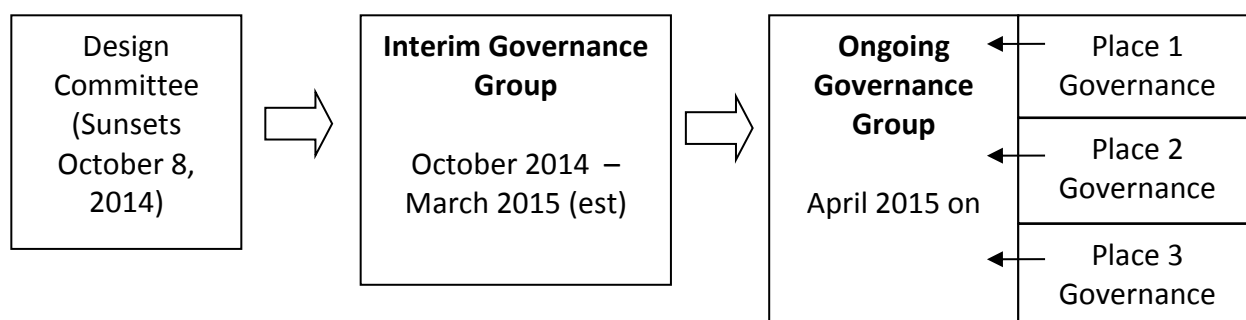
Guiding Principles

- Consistently demonstrate the values of equity, respect and partnership.
- Ensure low-income communities and communities of color affected by inequities develop and own the solutions.
- Advocate for and change institutional policies and processes to support equity goals.
- Encourage investments (both funding and in-kind resources) in long-term community capacity building and in systems, policy and practice changes that lead to greater racial and economic equity throughout King County.
- Catalyze alignment of funding streams and partner across issues and sectors to seek preventive strategies that address root causes of today's inequities.
- Be transparent and show how data and community expertise inform initiative strategies.
- Continuously learn, improve and share work publicly.
- Focus on geographic communities with the greatest needs, while simultaneously sharing lessons learned and building relationships across King County – *We are one King County.*

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Future governance of Communities of Opportunity

COO has now evolved to a point where it needs to create a governance structure that will position the initiative for long term success. Some form of an ongoing COO Governance Group will provide overall strategic guidance for COO, charting its future course, and orchestrating the different elements of COO into a cohesive whole. Each of the three to-be-identified COO sites will need to be part of that overarching governance group, in addition to having their own local governance tables.

Because the three COO partner communities will not be identified until later in 2014, an **Interim Governance Group** will be convened to shepherd the initiative from October through 2015. That group will facilitate the establishment of the ongoing Governance Groups, with an expectation that membership would shift at that point.

Evolution of COO from initial design to ongoing governance:

Design Committee (Sunsets October 8, 2014)	⇒	**Interim Governance Group** October 2014 – March 2015 (est)	⇒	**Ongoing Governance Group** April 2015 on	Place 1 Governance
					Place 2 Governance
					Place 3 Governance

Role of the Interim Governance Group:

- Review and advise on the selection of the first three place-based investment awardees. Review selection criteria and receive updates on the Review Panel's progress as the narrowing process occurs. Advise funders on final selection of sites.
- Develop and execute a plan to conduct the functions of and to sunset the Interim Governance Group, including facilitating the establishment of the ongoing Governance Group structure. *Timing: This should happen shortly after the three sites are identified.*
  - This work will entail fleshing out an ongoing Governance plan, and that plan should consider and flesh out the role of the site-specific governing/coordination tables so that is clear what aspects of governance happen at the specific places, and what is the role and value-add that the overarching Governance Group brings.
- Provide overall strategic direction for COO during the interim governance period. (This may include work to cultivate additional funding partners and/or work to align additional relevant funding streams as appropriate and when opportunities arise.)
- Oversee COO communications, evaluation, and staffing during the interim governance period.

- Follow the progress of the "round 1" COO grantees' systems, policy and practice change efforts and "round 2" place-based sites, learn from them, and support them in furthering cross-sector connections where appropriate.
- Engage with and shepherd COO's involvement in the Living Cities Integration Initiative.
- Inform the shaping of the COO element of the proposed King County Best Starts for Kids levy.

Interim Governance Group Members:
1. Michael Brown, The Seattle Foundation (TSF)
2. Deanna Dawson, Sound Cities Association
3. David Fleming, PATH
4. Hilary Franz, Futurewise
5. Patty Hayes, Public Health-Seattle & King County (PHSKC)
6. Betsy Jones, Executive's Office, King County
7. Paola Maranan, The Children's Alliance
8. Gordon McHenry, Jr, Solid Ground
9. Jeff Natter, Pacific Hospital PDA
10. Adrienne Quinn, King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS)
11. Michael Woo, community representative
12. Tony To, HomeSight (Rainier Valley site representative)
13. Adam Taylor, Global to Local (SeaTac/Tukwila site representative)
14. Sili Savusa, White Center Community Development Association (White Center site representative)

COO Staff:
Alice Ito, TSF
Kirsten Wysen, PHSKC
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Aaron Robertson, TSF
Sharon Bogan, communications, PHSKC
Nadine Chan, evaluation, PHSKC
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